

In the CLAIMS:

*Please amend claim 9 as follows. All claims are presented with their appropriate status indicators.*

1. (Withdrawn) Method for producing an electrically conductive connection between an electrical terminal device (104) having a cut-out and a sheet metal part (50), in which a hollow fastener element (10) having an end face is rotationally fixedly riveted to the sheet metal part and an electrically conductive connection is hereby produced between the fastener element and the sheet metal part and the so manufactured component assembly is subsequently provided with an electrically non-conductive or poorly-conductive protective coating (120) wherein a mount (80) for the electrical terminal device (104) is formed in the region of the end face (80) of the fastener element to which the electrical terminal device (104) is attached and prevents a rotation of the terminal device relative to the fastener element (10) and the sheet metal part (50) and wherein a thread forming or thread cutting screw (106) is screwed through the cut-out (110) of the electrical terminal device and into the hollow fastener element (10) and there forms or cuts a thread by the screw-in movement.
2. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fastener element (10) is attached to the sheet metal part (50) so that it is secure against button-out.
3. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fastener element (10) is self-piercingly attached to the sheet metal part.
4. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the mount (82) is formed by at least one projection (40, 41) which projects beyond the end face of the fastener element.
5. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the fastener element is executed with two projections (40) which are formed by two lugs having a spacing from one another and which are arranged to the side of a bore of the hollow fastener element (10).
6. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the projection (41) is arranged around the bore (38) of the hollow fastener element (10) and is made polygonal in its external outline.

7. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the projection (41) is made one of triangular, square, hexagonal or octagonal in its external outline.

8. (Withdrawn) Method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the mount (80) is formed by a recess in the end face of the fastener element which merges into one or more radially extending grooves.

9. (Currently Amended) Hollow fastener element for the electrically conductive attachment of an electrical terminal device (104) to a sheet metal part, wherein the hollow fastener element (10) has a head part (14) and a tubular rivet section (16), with the rivet section (16) merging via a contact surface (12) for the sheet metal part into the head part (14) and with features (30) providing security against rotation being provided at the contact surface and/or at the rivet section (16), wherein said head part has an end face remote from said tubular rivet section (16), wherein the hollow fastener element has a bore (38), at a point at which a thread is to-be formed by screwing-in a thread cutting or thread forming screw (106) thereby forming an electrically conductive connection between said screw and said element and wherein a mount (80) for the rotationally secure attachment of the electrical connection device (104) to the fastener element is provided at the end face of said head part (14).

10. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, wherein the mount (80) is formed by at least one projection (40; 41) projecting beyond the end face of the fastener element.

11. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, wherein the fastener element (10) is executed with two projections which are formed by two lugs having a spacing from one another which are arranged to the side of the bore (38) of the hollow fastener element.

12. (Withdrawn) Fastener element in accordance with claim 10, wherein the projection (41) is arranged around the bore of the hollow fastener element and is made polygonal in its external outline.

13. (Withdrawn) Fastener element in accordance with claim 12, wherein the projection (41) is made triangular, square, hexagonal or octagonal in its external outline.

14. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, wherein the mount (80) is

formed by a recess in the end face of a fastener element which merges into one or more radially extending grooves.

15. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, wherein a tubular guide section (18) is arranged concentric to the tubular rivet section (16) and radially inside the latter, with a ring gap (20) being provided between the guide section (18) and the rivet section (16) and with the guide section projecting beyond the free end of the rivet section.

16. (Previously Presented) Fastener element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the free end of the wall of the tubular rivet section (16) is rounded when viewed in an axial section plane both at the radially outer side (24) and also at the radially inner side (26).

17. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the ring gap (20) has a radial dimension in the range between 0 mm and approximately 3 mm.

18. (Previously Presented) Fastener element in accordance with claim 15 wherein the ring gap (20) finishes at an axial spacing (a) before the contact surface (12) at the rivet section side of the contact surface (12).

19. (Previously Presented) Fastener element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the guide section (18) is formed as a piercing section and has a circular cutting edge (28) at its end remote from the contact surface (12).

20. (Previously Presented) Fastener element in accordance with claim 15, wherein features (30) providing security against rotation are disposed at at least one of the region of the contact surface (12), the rivet section (16) and the jacket surface of the head part (14) adjacent to the contact surface (12).

21. (Previously Presented) Fastener element in accordance with claim 20, wherein features (30) providing security against rotation are formed by at least one of noses and grooves.

22. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 21, wherein noses (30) providing security against rotation are provided and are present in raised form at the contact surface (12) and at the rivet section (16) in the region of the transition from the contact surface to the rivet

section.

23. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 22, wherein said noses (30) providing security against rotation extend in the radial direction at the contact surface (12) and in the axial direction at the rivet section (16).

24. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, said features providing security against rotation comprise noses and have one of a generally rounded shape and side flanks (32) which lie in planes extending in the longitudinal direction of the element.

25. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 15, wherein the hollow fastener element has a hollow cylindrical region (38) where the thread forming or cutting screw forms or cuts a thread cylinder said hollow cylindrical region being one of is provided in the head part (14), provided in the guide section (18) and provided at least partly in the head part (14) and in the guide section (18).

26. (Previously Presented) Fastener element in accordance with claim 25, wherein said thread cylinder ends in the axial direction approximately at a position where said gap (20) ends.

27. (Previously Presented) Fastener element in accordance with claim 11, wherein said projection is formed by at least one lug and the other lug (40) has a flank, which, on the attachment of a cable shoe, prevents rotation of the latter about the longitudinal axis (11) of the functional element (10).

28. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 27, wherein at the position of the or each lug (40), the jacket surface of the head part (14) has a corresponding recess (42) which, on the attachment of the functional element to a sheet metal part (50), serves as a security against rotation.

29. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 9, wherein said rivet section is a piercing and riveting section.

30. (Previously Presented) Component assembly consisting of a sheet metal part (50) and a hollow fastener element (10) attached to it via a rivet connection, wherein the fastener element is

rotationally fixedly secured to the sheet metal part by means of features (30) providing security against rotation and the fastener element and the sheet metal part are jointly coated with an electrically non-conductive or poorly conductive protective coating (120) and an electrically conductive path is provided between the fastener element and the sheet metal part at least at one of the region of the rivet connection and at the features providing security against rotation, wherein the fastener element has a smooth cylinder bore (38) for receiving a thread forming or cutting screw whereby said thread forming or cutting screw forms or cuts a screw thread into said bore to form an electrically conductive connection to said hollow fastener element at said bore and wherein the fastener element has an end face remote from the rivet connection and a mount (80) at the end face remote from the rivet connection for the rotationally secure attachment of an electrical terminal device (104), with a head of said thread forming or cutting screw forming an electrically conductive connection to said electrical terminal device thereby establishing an electrical connection from said electrical terminal device to said head of said screw, via said screw to said hollow fastener element via said screw thread and from said hollow fastener element to said sheet metal part.

31. (Original) Component assembly in accordance with claim 30, wherein a thread cutting or forming screw (106) is screwed into the hollow fastener element (10) and holds the electrical connection device at the fastener element (10) in the manner secure against rotation.
32. (Original) Component assembly in accordance with claim 30, wherein the mount (80) is formed by at least one projection (40; 41) projecting beyond the end face of the fastener element.
33. (Original) Component assembly in accordance with claim 32, wherein the fastener element is executed with two projections (40) which are formed by two lugs having a spacing from one another which are disposed to the side of the hole (38) of the hollow fastener element.
34. (Withdrawn) Component assembly in accordance with claim 32, wherein the projection (41) is arranged around the bore (38) of the hollow fastener element (10) and is made polygonal in its external outline.
35. (Withdrawn) Fastener element in accordance with claim 34, wherein the projection (41) is made one of triangular, square, hexagonal and octagonal in cross-section.

36. (Original) Fastener element in accordance with claim 32, wherein said the mount (80) is formed by a recess in the end face of the fastener element which merges into one or more radially extending grooves.

37. (Previously Presented) Fastener element in accordance with claim 16, wherein said free end wall of the tubular rivet section has one of a semi-circular shape and a shape resembling an arrow-tip.